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yet unsuccessful struggle for an income tax in France does not seem altogether consistent with the theory that the income tax is the inevitable product of triumphant democracy. Surely, the opposition of the conservative Senate is not enough to account for the failure. Possibly a better explanation might be found in the fact that in France, as in some other Latin countries, whose tax systems evolved from the principle of the tithe, there is already a system of correlated taxes whose combined effect is substantially that of the income tax.

As the author of *Progressive Taxation in Theory and Practice*, *The Shifting and Incidence of Taxation* and of the volume of *Essays in Taxation*, all of which have run through several editions and have been translated into foreign languages, Professor Seligman is one of the widest known "authorities" on public finance. For that reason, as well as for its own contents, the book will command a wide constituency.

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*Tariff Reform, Employment, and Imperial Unity.* By GEORGE COATES, M.A., M.D. (London and New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1911. Pp. viii, 120. 2s. 6d.)

*The Imperial Organization of Trade.* By GEOFFREY DRAGE. (London: Smith, Elder, and Company. New York: Dutton and Company. 1911. Pp. xviii, 374.)

These two tariff studies have their theme in common, but little else. Dr. Coates' book is a typical specimen of British popular neo-protectionist literature, strongly nationalist and imperialist in tone, as dogmatic as ever any least distinguished parrot repeater of Bastiat or McCulloch; and, in the phrase in which Mr. Asquith summed up the whole tariff reform agitation, "incurably sloppy" in its argument. American readers will find an historic interest in most of the theories advanced. The core of the book is the old two-profits argument, set forth with many variations.

Mr. Drage affords a refreshing contrast in his judicious and temperate, though far from colorless, treatment. He writes from the viewpoint of a strong Unionist and Imperialist, anxious, if possible, to find in the Chamberlain policy the long sought means of binding and strengthening the Empire. His conclusions, however, are decidedly adverse to all three aspects of the Tariff Re-

form movement. Preference: the colonial preference on British goods is of real value, but limited by local protectionist feeling and by concessions to other states; British preference on colonial goods would involve a much more radical change in fiscal policy, hamper home industry if extended to products of all the colonies and create friction if granted only to some, and run counter to the protectionist demands of home producers and the reciprocal concessions granted foreign nations; Argentina, again, is a commercial colony of Britain. Retaliation: a doubtful weapon in any situation, not certain to bring the opposing nation to time while certain to create vested interests at home, and a weapon which Britain, drawing its supplies of food and raw materials largely from the most highly protectionist countries, is not in a position to brandish; the Brussels sugar convention, however, proved her power of exerting pressure to prevent dumping. Protection: no panacea for unemployment and a serious burden for producer and consumer alike.

The chief weaknesses which Mr. Drage finds in Britain's present situation are, her gradual conversion from the world's workshop to a *Rentner Staat*, from entrepreneur to financier, Manchester-hubbed to London-hubbed; the growing competition of subsidized and under-equipped foreign shipping in coasting and neutral trade, and the more serious decrease of the proportion of British seamen in British crews; and the decline of agriculture. For all these ills, however, he proffers hopeful remedies. Economic organization of the Empire, fiscal unity failing, must come through imperial preference in credit, improvement of inter-imperial postal, telegraphic and steamship communication, and uniformity in commercial legislation. It is, however, on political rather than on economic lines that Mr. Drage expects closer union to come; and he concludes by urging the Imperial Conference of 1911 to take the first step in centralization by adopting the Pollock-Deakin-Ward plan of a permanent Imperial Council, advice which the Conference for the second time rejected. It is significant of the difficulties of distance and lack of close touch which face those who wish to bring under a single administration all the scattered dominions of the Empire that the motto quoted on the title-page is ascribed to "Mr. F. W. Borden, Leader of the Opposition, Canada," a confusion between the able leader of the Opposition, Mr. R. L. Borden, since become Premier, and his cousin, a member of the late Cabinet, Sir F. W. Borden.

Mr. Drage's book does not profess to throw much new light on the fiscal problem, but it presents the best available summary of the economic and political issues at stake, and the main considerations on both sides.

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*Elements of Indian Taxation.* By LEONARD ALSTON. (London: Macmillan and Company. 1910. Pp. ix, 115. 2s.)

The author's purpose in this book is twofold: first and foremost, to describe the various taxes and revenues derived therefrom instituted by the English Government of India; and secondly, to demonstrate that in establishing these taxes the Government had the same principles in view which have since 1846 dominated the United Kingdom. Certain well defined ideas run through both systems, as for instance that taxes should be as nearly as possible proportioned to income; that normal industry should be affected as little as possible by the imposition of any tax; and that all the revenues collected minus the cost of collection should go to the public treasury without benefit to any particular individual or interest.

In the main the author makes out a good case. It is always interesting to note how economic principles must yield in their application to the particular circumstances of the case. The British system of taxation, mainly customs, excise, income and inheritance taxes, rigidly applied to India, would supply but a small fraction of the necessary revenue of that Empire, and the author convincingly shows that certain variations were inevitable. Thus the Indian land tax is the practical equivalent of the English income tax providing above 38 per cent of the entire receipts of the Indian Government, and if one adds the income tax assessed on incomes not derived from land this total is not far from 42 per cent, contrasting with the 24 per cent of the total receipts furnished by the English income tax. On the other hand the customs and excise (including the salt tax) which provide on the average about 30 per cent of the Indian revenue, or about £14,000,000, yield about 50 per cent of the English revenue or £68,000,000. The general poverty of the people of India is strikingly illustrated by these figures. However, the author aims to show that the same principles are in operation in both countries. The commodity taxes are roughly a form of income tax on small in-